6th November 1965] [திரு. வெ. ராமையா]

வேண்டுமோ, அதற்கு வேண்டிய தீவிர முயற்சியில் சீஃப் எஞ்ஜினீயரிங் இலாகா ஈடு பட்டிருக்கிறது. அதிர்ஷ்டவசமாக சென்ற வருஷத்தைவிட இந்த வருஷம் நல்ல மழை பெய்யத் தொடங்கி இருக்கிறது. ஆகையினால், அந்த ஜில்லாவில் விவசாயம் இந்த ஆண்டு நல்ல முறையில் நடைபெறும் என்ற நம்பிக்கை இருக்கிறது.

IV—CALLING ATTENTION TO NON-CULTIVATION OF LANDS IN MADURAI AND RAMANATHAPURAM DISTRICTS.

திரு. செ. மாதவன்: கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, பருவ மழை தவறியதன் காரணமாக, வைகை, பெரியாறு நீர்ப்பாசன முறைகளின் கீழ் வரும் மதுரை, இராமநாதபுரம் மாவட்டங்களில் பெருவாரியான நிலம் சாகுபடி செய்யப்படாமலிருப்பதும், மேற்படி அணைக்கட்டுகளிலிருந்து சாகுபடிக்காகத் தண்ணீர் விடுவதும் பற்றிய அவசரப் பொது முக்கியத்துவம் வாய்ந்த விஷயத்தை கனம் உணவு அமைச்சர் அவர்களின் கவனத்திற்குக் கொண்டு வருகிறேன்.

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has referred to the non-cultivation of a vast extent of land in Madurai and Ramanathapuram districts covered by the Vaigai and Periyar Irrigation Systems due to the failure of monsoon and regarding letting out of water from those anicuts for cultivation.

The Periyar Reservoir serves the ayacut in the Cumbum Valley and the Periyar Ayacut. The Vaigai Reservoir Project contemplates bringing under cultivation a new extent of 22,818 acres (under Tirumangalam Main Canal and Periyar New Extension) besides stabilising supplies to Vaigai Old Ayacut. The normal dates for allowing supplies to the Periyar Old Ayacut and new area under Vaigai Reservoir Project are as follows:—

Periyar ayacut:

(1) Double crop area in Cumbum Valley and Periyar Delta: —1st June.

(2) Single crop are in Cumbum Valley and Periyar ayacut —15th August.

Vaigai Reservoir Project: —

(3) Tirumangalam Main Canal—1st June.

(4) Periyar New Extension area—15th September.

For Vaigai Old ayacut under Vaigai river, the natural flows of Vaigai river after meeting the requirements of the Vaigai Old ayacut will be stored in the Vaigai Reservoir for allowing supplies as and when required in consultation with the Collector of Ramanathapuram district.

[Sri V. Ramaiah] [6th November 1965

This year, supplies for the Periyar Ayacut and Cumbum Valley for the first crop on the double crop lands could not be allowed on the normal date as the storage position in both the Periyar and Vaigai Reservoirs was poor. An examination of the past records showed that the South-West Monsoon had set in 28 out of 34 years before 30th June and in all years before 10th July. When compared to last year (when supply was allowed on 15th June), the total storage in Periyar Reservoir and Periyar credit in Vaigai Reservoir on 1st June 1965 was more. On the expectation that the South-West Monsoon would set in before 10th July, the double crop area was opened for irrigation on 10th June 1965. As the minimum combined gross storage of 10,000 M.cft. in Periyar Reservoir, Periyar Credit in Vaigai Reservoir and in the tanks in Periyar ayacut was not obtained, as prescribed in the rules for regulation, the Tirumangalam Main Canal of Vaigai Reservoir Project was not opened for irrigation.

Contrary to the expectations, the South-West Monsoon this year has been a failure. The inflows realised during the period are the worst on record since the Periyar Reservoir came into operation and the Reservoir also touched the lowest level ever recorded. Hence, regulation had to be done carefully with the release from the Periyar Reservoir and the Periyar Credit in Vaigai Reservoir. Except for a short spell of 5 days (16th to 20th) in July 1965, the inflows realised in the Periyar Reservoir have been far below the normal requirements of the Periyar delta. This would show that the irrigation has been carried on with the inflows realised and the meagre storage in Periyar Reservoir.

The maximum level reached in Periyar Reservoir this year was only 12.9 feet on 22nd July 1965 with a corresponding storage of 2,069 M.cft. against the F.R.L. capacity of 10,510 M.cft. Continuous supply was allowed in Periyar Main Canal till 4th September 1965 by depleting the Periyar and Vaigai Reservoirs. An internal turn system was also adopted by the local officers to send down equitable supply to all the area with the meagre available supplies. After 5th September 1965, considering the low storage obtained in both the reservoirs and as the entire crop had been transplanted, only the wettings required were arranged for, by closing channels in Cumbum Valley for 2 or 3 days in 10 days and supplies to Periyar ayacut were allowed for about 4 days in 10 days. Similar wettings were allowed up to 24th September 1965 as this was the crucial period. Thereafter the Periyar ayacut and Cumbum Valley received good rainfall for a week and much difficulty was not experienced in securing supply adequate to save the standing crops. The first crop was thus saved by judicious regulation in the irrigated area.

Inasmuch as supply to the first crop area itself had to be done with great care and judicious regulations and with reference to the inflows realised, the supplies to the single crop area of Periyar Ayacut, scheduled to be given on 15th August was postponed.

6th November 1965] [Sri V. Ramaiah]

Similarly supplies to the Periyar New Extension area of Vaigai Reservoir Project was also postponed beyond 15th September as the minimum combined gross storage of 10,000 M.cft. in Periyar Reservoir, Periyar credit in Vaigai Reservoir and storage in tanks was not obtained.

In view of the fairly good inflows realised in Periyar and Vaigai Reservoirs in the second fortnight of October 1965, supplies are now being allowed to Periyar Ayacut for raising a short term crop from 26th October 1965 onwards.

As regards Vaigai Old Ayacut, it was found on inspection that supplies might be necessary for about 19,000 acres already under cultivation and for about 30,000 to 40,000 acres to be cultivated with seedlings already grown. Accordingly release for this ayacut was allowed from 15th October 1965 and this will be continued up to about 7th November 1965.

Every step has been taken by Government to distribute the available supplies to the maximum area, in spite of the fact that the South-West Monsoon has been a failure this year and worst on record.

V.—ANNOUNCEMENT.

(1) The Madras General Sales Tax (Third Amendment) Bill, 1965.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to announce to the House that the Governor has given his recommendation to the introduction in the Madras Legislative Assembly of the Madras General Sales Tax (Third Amendment) Bill, 1965.

VI.—GOVERNMENT BILLS.

(1) The Madras General Sales Tax (Third Amendment) Bill, 1965.

The Hon. Sri R. VENKATARAMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move for leave to introduce the Madras General Sales Tax (Third Amendment) Bill, 1965.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is—

"That leave be granted for the introduction of the Madras General Sales Tax (Third Amendment) Bill, 1965."

The motion was put and carried, and leave was granted.

The Hon. Sri R. VENKATARAMAN: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Bill is introduced.